

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application, and stand rejected. Further review by the Examiner is requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wu (6,241,317). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Wu '317 does not disclose each and every element of independent claims 1, 14 and 19. In particular, Wu '317 does not disclose a knockdown furniture assembly with an arm piece having at least one connecting member extending outwardly therefrom. Instead, Wu '317 discloses a modular chair construction in which bolts (9) extend outwardly from the seat and back frames to be inserted into the arm pieces.

Applicant has found that furniture constructions in which the arm pieces have inserts that accept bolts extending from a frame piece, such as in Wu '317, have very limited life. After several years of use, the inserts wollow out of the hole in which they are set causing the furniture to become unstable and ultimately unusable. Applicant has found that the present invention, in which the connecting members extend from the arms to be inserted into the frame, offers superior stability.

For the reasons stated above, independent claims 1, 14 and 19 are allowable over Wu '317. Accordingly, claims 2-13, 15-18 and 20, which depend on claims 1, 14 and 19, respectively, are also allowable.

Applicant believes the application is in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asks that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the examiner believes that additional issues remain, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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